

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend Paragraph 2 on Page 17 of the Specification as follows:

FIGURE 5 illustrates a parking meter embodiment of the systems and methods described herein. Parking meters **501-504** act as peers on a peer-to-peer network **[[500]]**, a portion of which is shown in the figure. The parking meters may interact wirelessly or through wired links. A wireless tower **510** acts as a hub in routing information from the parking meters to other peers on the network. For example, tower **510** can link each of the meters **501-504** to a parking database server **520** (acting as a PMP, for example) holding information about past parking records and payment requests of the user who wishes to use a parking spot associated with any of the meters **501-504**. Computer **530** may be employed to coordinate and/or monitor data transmission across the network.

Please amend Paragraph 3 on Page 12 of the Specification as follows:

In addition, specific peers may offer services to the network as a whole, such as a payment processing service **106** (which allows certain electronic payments to be processed). Peer **102** may request a payment using an electronic payment option accepted by **106** by sending an appropriate message to peer **103[[104]]** (through peer **104[[103]]**); peer **103[[104]]** may then access the payment processing service to fulfill the original payment request. In that instance, peer **102** is serving as a PRP, peer **104[[103]]** as an MPP and peer **103[[104]]** as a PPP. This payment processing service may require access to an external service provider, such as a credit card verification service over a telephone line. Other services may also be available through peers within the network, such as a postprocessing service **108** available via peer **107**. An example of such includes a storage service that tracks all failed payment requests (employing, for example, a database). Moreover, there is a wide variety of channels and encoding schemes that could be used to communicate between the various peers, and these need not be identical; a mix of wired and wireless devices could still form a peer-to-peer network. As mentioned previously, a variety of security systems may be employed to protect data transfer between and among the peers on the network, such as those described in Bruce Schneir, *Applied Cryptography Cryptography* (Addison-Wesley 1996).